

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: GTE MIDWEST INCORPORATED AND IOWA TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.	DOCKET NO. SPU-99-29
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ORDER GRANTING PETITIONS TO INTERVENE

(Issued December 16, 1999)

On October 20, 1999, GTE Midwest Incorporated (GTE) and Iowa Telecommunications Services, Inc. (ITS), (collectively, the Applicants) filed a joint application with the Utilities Board (Board) for approval of reorganization, discontinuance of service, and transfer of certificates, pursuant to IOWA CODE §§ 476.77, 476.20, and 476.29 (1999). The Board docketed the joint application as Docket No. SPU-99-29.

On November 1, 1999, AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc. (AT&T), filed a petition to intervene in this docket. AT&T expressed its intention to participate in order to protect its interests as a purchaser of services from GTE and also as a party to an interconnection agreement with GTE.

On November 29, 1999, Forest City Telecom, Inc., Heart of Iowa Communications, Inc., and Winnebago Cooperative Telephone Association (collectively, FCTI) filed a petition to intervene in this docket. FCTI states that they are certificated land-line telecommunications companies that are customers and (in

some cases) competitors of GTE. They are concerned that, in any transfer of exchanges from GTE to ITS, it must be clear and unequivocal that ITS is assuming GTE's obligations pursuant to existing interconnection agreements and extended area service agreements. FCTI also assert that ITS must have an Operation Support System in place and functioning prior to discontinuance of GTE's operations and that ITS must have sufficiently trained personnel to effect a seamless transition from GTE to ITS.

On November 30, 1999, separate petitions to intervene were filed by CommChoice of Iowa, L.L.C. (CommChoice), and LTDS Corporation (LTDS). Each petition expresses concerns regarding interconnection agreements, the potential for preferential treatment by ITS of certain ITS-affiliated entities, and the possible effect of the transfer on the availability of services and products purchased by CommChoice or LTDS.

No response to any of the petitions to intervene has been filed.

The Board will grant the unopposed petitions to intervene.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The petition to intervene filed on November 1, 1999, by AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc., is granted.

2. The petition to intervene filed on November 29, 1999, by Forest City Telecom, Inc., Heart of Iowa Communications, Inc., and Winnebago Cooperative Telephone Association is granted.

3. The petitions to intervene filed on November 30, 1999, by
CommChoice of Iowa, L.L.C., and LTDS Corporation are granted.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr.
Executive Secretary

/s/ Diane Munns

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 16th day of December, 1999.